

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Support for amended Claims 1 and 11-13 is found in previously presented Claim 10.

Claim 10 is canceled.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank Examiner Chan and Examiner Michener for the interview conducted on March 8, 2011 and for the suggestions to amend Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 10.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 9-13, and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 07-330312 by Koyama et al., in view of US Patent No. 6,503,473 by Akiba is traversed.

As the Office recognized during the interview, neither Koyama nor Akiba recognize the importance of washing a lithium sulfide with N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) at a temperature of 100 °C or higher as in amended Claim 1. Applicants further show that the purified lithium sulfide as in amended Claim 1 has a lithium N-methylaminobutyrate (LMAB) content of 0.1 % by weight or less.

Furthermore, the newly submitted declaration shows the importance of the washing temperature of 100 °C or higher where the content of LMAB is drastically reduced when the washing temperature is 100 °C or higher. Neither Koyama nor Akiba disclose 1) a lithium sulfide having a lithium N-methylaminobutyrate (LMAB) content of 0.1 % by weight or less, 2) washing a lithium sulfide with N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) at a temperature of 100 °C or higher, and 3) the importance of washing a lithium sulfide with N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) at a temperature of 100 °C or higher to obtain a lithium sulfide having a lithium N-methylaminobutyrate (LMAB) content of 0.1 % by weight or less as in amended Claim 1.

Thus, in light of the teachings of Koyoma and Akida, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have foreseen a method as in amended Claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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